EXCISE.

(Nos. 202-206.)

SUBJECT No. 202.

Control over the Taluk Excise Department.

Messrs. Venkatasubbaiya & Ramaswamy Setty, Arkalgud Taluk.

Withdrawn.

SUBJECT No. 203.

Excise khists.

Mr. B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—All taxes payable to Government are generally paid on or before the 10th of the month following that to which they relate. But the excise khists are made payable on the 20th of the month to which they relate. This is a hardship on the excise contractors who have given necessary security to Government. It is therefore prayed that orders may be passed allowing the excise khists to be paid like all other taxes on the 10th of the month following that to which they relate.

Reply of Government.—The Mysore rules are more favorable to the licensee than the corresponding rules of Bombay and Madras. The Government will be within their rights if they insist on the payment of the whole rental at once, but, they have relaxed the rule in the licensee's favor. The request of the member cannot be granted.

SUBJECT No. 204.

Arrack of 25 U. P.

Mr. B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Withdrawn.

SUBJECT No. 205.

Bagani trees on hiduvali ands.

Messrs. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, B. Subramanya Bhatta, and Halgar Subbaraya, Koppa Taluk

Summary of discussion.—Landholders in the malnad may be allowed to tap bagani trees on their lands for their *bona fide* use. This subject has been brought forward more than once. The ryots of malnad have lost their hold on the coolies chiefly by reason of their having lost their right to bagani trees.

Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao, C. Vasudeva Rao, Malali Venkataramaiya and other members from the malnad taluks also spoke on the subject and represented that the existing system needed considerable alterations in respect of bagani trees; that in the malnad agricultural labourers cannot do without a drink of toddy every day and that if restrictions are placed upon drawing toddy from bagani trees, they will go in search of it to distant toddy shops and get drunk and absent themselves from labour, thus causing inconvenience and loss to their employers; that this class of labourers has from time immemorial been accustomed to drinking toddy; and that it is therefore essential to give them facilities to draw toddy from trees standing on or near the lands in which they generally work.

The members further urged that, as the formalities to be gone through before a tree can be tapped necessarily take time, several bagani trees could not be tapped at all as delay is fatal to successful tapping. They therefore requested that the tree tax system might be either wholly abolished or so modified as to suit the peculiar conditions of the malnad and pointed out that this may be done without any loss of revenue to Government.

Reply of Government.—The whole question will be carefully considered and a decision arrived at in due course.

SUBJECT No. 206.

Payment of excise revenue to inamdars.

Messrs. Madappa and V. Raghavachar, Mysore Taluk. A. Anniah Pandit, District Board, Mysore.

Summary of discussion.—Even though the right of certain inamdars to toddy revenue in their villages has been acknowledged by Government, the money has not yet been paid. It may be ordered to be paid at once. If this be not possible, at least three-fourths of the amount of the bills may be paid in advance.

Reply of Government.—The revision of the rules is under consideration and early orders will be passed.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS

(Nos. 207-222.)

SUBJECT No. 207.

Annual municipal meetings.

Mr. Y. Narniah, Chikballapur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—Deputy Commissioners may be requested to preside over the last monthly meeting of every year of the different municipalities with a view to discuss urgent and important subjects.

Reply of Government.—No hard and fast rule can be laid down. Deputy Commissioners are not the Presidents of all the Municipalities in the district and cannot therefore preside at the meetings of those Municipal Councils of which they are not the Presidents. Although not Presidents, Deputy Commissioners have powers of control over all municipalities within their districts.

SUBJECT No. 208.

Formation of unions.

Mr. Seenappa, Hoskote Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—There is a Government order that all taluk head quarters in the State whose population is less than 5,000 should be made into unions. The formation into unions of all such taluk headquarters is likely to affect the prestige of the headquarters.

This matter was represented in 1907 and Government were pleased to say that due consideration would be bestowed on the subject. As yet no orders in the matter have been passed; it is requested that in cases where the population of the taluk headquarters is less than 5,000, the adjoining villages within two miles thereof may be added on to the headquarters, just necessary to make it into a municipality.